

J. Q. Dinwiddie. M. D.

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BRIGHAM HALL,

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Hospital for the Insane.

CANANDAIGUA, N. Y.

October, 1860.

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THAT a State should possess within its borders ample means for the restoration of all cases of insanity likely to occur, is a proposition so clear, as to require no more than an announcement, to secure the approval of all. It is, likewise, as clearly a duty to seek, in every legitimate manner, the alleviation and well-being of those laboring under so great an affliction. The reciprocal obligations which grow out of the association of men together in communities, as well as motives of humanity and economy, render the duty too imperative to be neglected.

The public hospital provision for the insane of the State of New York, amounts to an accommodation of 800 patients. The number of the insane in the State, in 1855, was reported to be 2742. Of this number, 700 were in asylums. Though these data furnish but an approximation of the actual amount of insanity, yet it will appear that a small proportion only were in a situation to receive the medical and custodial care the disease requires. The remainder were provided for in almshouses; in other equally inappropriate receptacles; or compelled to depend upon the more liberal provision found in neighboring States.

The deficiency of the public accommodation has been frequently presented by those having intimate official relations with the insane. Many cases of insanity have occurred in families in independent pecuniary circumstances, which have been under the necessity of seeking the public hospitals of other States. Cases of insanity have occurred in the families of persons of independent

condition, pecuniarily, where the difficulties attending admission to an asylum have resulted in reducing the family to a condition of dependence. The delays that have occurred from this cause, at a critical period of the disease, have, in many cases, resulted in destroying all hope of restoration.

The causes operative in the production of insanity, continue to have their influence, and may be expected to produce, at least, uniform results. If any conjecture of the future is to be formed, however, it is that the amount of mental disease will increase rather than diminish. No want of experience in the construction of edifices for the insane; no ignorance of their number, their situation, or the nature of their wants, has been alleged. The necessity for the creation of new hospitals has been represented by several Chief Magistrates of this State; by committees of both branches of the Legislature; by Superintendents of the State Lunatic Asylum; by the Superintendents of the Poor; by Boards of County Supervisors; by the State Medical Society, and by private citizens. Under all these circumstances, further delay in making additional provision for the insane would become a just reproach to the citizens of this State.

In the Spring of 1855, three individuals* united in an association for the purpose of establishing a hospital for the insane, calculated to meet a demand believed to exist. These gentlemen, governed by the principles announced by the *Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane*, relative to the construction of hospitals for the insane, deeming it essential to the success of such an institution that its location should be selected with a view to its requirements, visited a number of sites that were offered for consideration. By a singularly happy coincidence—so auspicious to the success of this enterprise—one admi-

* Mr. R. D. Cook, Mr. W.-G. Wayne, and Dr. George Cook.

rably adapted to the purposes of a hospital, presented itself in Canandaigua. This village is 104 miles from Buffalo, and 222 miles from Albany. It is accessible from the East and West by the New York Central Railroad; from New York, Philadelphia, and the counties traversed by the New York and Erie Railroad, by the Canandaigua and Elmira Railroad. It is in a centre, a radius from which fifty miles in extent, will include no less than 500,000 persons.

The village of Canandaigua has long been celebrated for its healthful atmosphere and beautiful scenery. Situated near one of the fine sheets of water which adorn Western New York, with broad streets abounding in shade trees, pleasant residences, well kept lawns and gardens, it possesses all the attractions that could be desired. The drives in the village and its vicinity are always pleasant, and in the summer months are very beautiful.

The location of the institution is upon elevated ground, about three-fourths of a mile southwest of the railway station, and commands a view of the village, lake, and surrounding country. A grove of twenty acres immediately surrounding the house affords ample room for exercise, and is a never-failing source of pleasure and occupation to many patients. Fifty acres are under cultivation, about fifteen acres being appropriated to garden and fruits.

The central building was prepared for patients, and received the first one on October 3, 1855. The Medical Superintendence was committed to Dr. GEO. COOK, by whom the hospital, in grateful recollection of his friend, Dr. AMARIAH BRIGHAM, formerly Superintendent of the New York State Lunatic Asylum, was named "*Brigham Hall.*" In the summer of 1856, the north wing was completed and received patients. In July, 1858, the hospital had been in operation two years and one-half, during much of which time its accommodations had

been occupied. The time for enlarging the sphere of its operations was believed to have arrived. Measures were accordingly taken to secure an act of incorporation, and to place the hospital on a permanent basis. The act incorporating "*Brigham Hall—A Hospital for the Insane*," became a law on the 10th of April, 1859; under which an organization was effected on the 18th of August following. The Managers deeming a further enlargement necessary, the south wing was commenced during the same month. This wing, designed for female patients, was completed and occupied during July, 1860.

The building is in the rural Gothic style of architecture, and is composed of a central stone structure and two brick wings. The length of front is two hundred and seventy-six feet, with a depth varying from thirty-six to sixty feet. The centre building contains the officers' residence and reception rooms; extending back from it are the kitchens, laundry, and domestic offices. The engine and gas-house are placed in rear of the laundry.

The wings are arranged exclusively for patients and their attendants. They have wide corridors with parlors, dining-rooms, bed-rooms, bath-rooms, and closets, for eighty patients. They are handsomely furnished and provided with all articles necessary for comfort and convenience. As far as possible, all peculiarities of structure and furnishing have been avoided, the object being to give the house the air of a quiet home. A chapel, reading room, and recreation room are soon to be added.

The plan of the building is such as to afford all the facilities for classification of patients required in institutions of this character. All partition walls between the bed-rooms and elsewhere are built of brick, for the purpose of diminishing the transmission of sounds and lessening the danger from fire. The hygienic arrangements of the house, so far as an abundant supply of

water, ventilation, sewerage, and well-lighted apartments can contribute to these, are as complete as experience here and elsewhere can suggest.

Brigham Hall is designed for the accommodation of patients of the independent class, a class for which no adequate provision has existed in the State. Constrained to live from home by reason of their infirmity, they are often in a condition to appreciate its substantial comforts, and, with greater freedom from the discipline that must attend the care of a large number of insane persons associated together, may be made more contented and reconciled to their residence. The institution possesses ample arrangements for the treatment of acute forms of mental disease. It is questioned whether experience will not show that such cases may be more successfully treated, with proper facilities for classification, in an establishment with a limited number of patients, affording the necessary retirement, and freedom from disturbing influences.

Though no foundation exists at present for the gratuitous care and treatment of cases of insanity, the doors of the hospital will always be open to a moderate number of patients, in indigent circumstances, at a rate equal to the cost of support.

The medical direction of the hospital will be in strict conformity to those principles which experience, in established asylums and hospitals, has shown to be conducive to the best results. The administration of the hospital will be strictly upon a medical basis.

The medical superintendence is intrusted to Dr. GEORGE COOK, and Dr. JOHN B. CHAPIN. They bring to the discharge of their duties an experience derived from a connection, of several years, with the State Lunatic Asylum, and the New York Hospital.

From the opening of the institution, to the 1st of September, 1860, there have been received 166 patients, of whom 49 have been discharged recovered; 40 im-

proved; 19 unimproved, and 10 have died; 48 remain under treatment.

A Board of Visitors possess the power of examination and visitation.

The general oversight and management of the affairs of the hospital are intrusted to a Board of three Managers.

The objects desired to be attained by the act of incorporation, are the permanency of the hospital; the legalization of its operations; and the protection of the interests of all concerned, whether in the relation of patient or corporator. The Managers are fully impressed with the importance of guarding all these interests in the most careful manner. They are sensible of the fact that any organization, surrounded by all the precautions it is possible to devise, is liable to be vitiated, and fail to accomplish the end in view, unless controlled by undoubted integrity. They believe success is oftener to be attributed to the latter circumstance, than to any completeness of organization. They feel deeply the nature and the delicacy of the responsibility they have assumed, and they pledge themselves to discharge, conscientiously, their entire duty in this respect.

In conclusion, the Managers indulge the hope that the hospital, as thus projected and organized, will receive the substantial and moral support of this, and neighboring communities. They believe it is only necessary to merit this to receive all they desire in this respect. The projectors of *Brigham Hall* have, after much reflection, and sparing no expense, laid the foundation of a hospital for the insane which they are determined shall be carried forward on a professional basis as liberal as can be consistent with the interests involved. Its career, so far, has met their sanguine anticipations, and has been auspicious of future success. The Managers trust this result will be realized, and that the institution may continue to prove a means of great usefulness and an honor to the State.

Applications for admission of patients, or letters of inquiry, should be addressed to DR. GEORGE COOK, *Brigham Hall*, Canandaigua, N. Y.

Patients are received on a medical certificate of insanity, and the execution of a bond for support.

